



**NEWARK
HUMAN
RIGHTS
COMMISSION**



Misc.

1952

1972

Twentieth Anniversary

PAST COMMISSIONERS

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Jordan Baris
Albert Black
John F. Cahill
Paul G. Cavicchia
Lawrence B. McCloskey
William T. Conway
Anthony Defino
Benjamin Epstein
Vincent Fitzsimmons
Richard J. Foley
Leonard Holman
Hickman Holmes
Sylvia Josephson

Dr. Maxwell M. Kaye
James Malave
Alexander Mark
John M. Marks
Phil O. Mayer
George Napier, Sr.
William Procell
Jerry Porcelli
Marie E. Radel
Herbert Tate
Louis H. Tompkins
Rabbi Israel Turner
Dr. Jack York

DEDICATION:

This anniversary edition is dedicated to all Commissioners, past and present who labored untiringly and without compensation to assist in carrying out the mandate of the Commission.



October 15, 1952, the City of Newark joined other municipalities throughout the country in establishing an edict to guarantee its citizens peace, harmony and domestic tranquility.

To meet this challenge, the "Mayor's Group on Inter-relations" was created with the purpose being:

"To provide an instrumentality through which the City may officially encourage and bring about mutual understanding and respect by all groups in the City, eliminate prejudice, intolerance, bigotry, discrimination and disorder and help give effect to the guarantee of equal rights for all as assured by the Constitution and laws of the state."

The Commission was organized with 15 members appointed by the Mayor, with each member serving a term of five years or until their successor was appointed and qualified. These members served — as they do today — without compensation. The accomplishments of our Commission have not always been victorious, many have gone unnoticed and many have been taken for granted. Nevertheless, we are credited with a myriad of favorable deeds over our twenty-year history. Because of the enlarged problems of education, accommodation and assimilation, our staff has grown from 30 to its present capacity of 37, from a budget in 1952 of \$17,000 to \$200,000 in 1972.

In 1953, the Commission initiated a program whereby scholarships were given to various community and civic organizations to participate in workshops held at Rutgers University.

In 1954, the Commission started a series of Human Relations Executive Luncheon meetings.

Once a month all directors of public and private agencies in the field of intergroup relations would convene to serve as a clearing house for information and action in civil and human rights concerns.

In 1955, an Encampment for Citizenship was started by the Commission. This was an international human relations program for youths. This program was a non-sectarian, non-political, educational experience open to people between the ages of 10-23. The participants attended these workshops in Puerto Rico.

In 1956, Newark became the first city in the United States to embark on an extensive diagnosis of the personal and human factor which motivates the behavior of people. This endeavor was supervised by the Commission.

In 1957, the Commission held a recruitment training program for police cadets. These cadets received training in basic civil rights and human relations issues.

In 1958 the work began to complete three volumes of a survey conducted by the Market Planning Corporation for the Commission dealing with population shifts and the attitudes of people about each other.

In 1959, "NEWARK A CITY IN TRANSITION" was completed. The Newark Human Rights Commission were the technical advisors. There was a great demand for these volumes which resulted in a mass

mailing throughout the country. These volumes included recommendations to the City of Newark for eliminating the major sources of intergroup misunderstanding and prejudice.

The first annual brotherhood awards program was sponsored by the Commission in 1960 — a practice that has continued to date. The purpose of this program, as has always been, is to pay tribute to those citizens in Newark who have exemplified in their day-to-day living and encounters a concern for others.

In 1961, a Clergy Advisory Council was created by the Commission with the purpose being to evaluate, educate and attempt to eliminate prejudice in the City of Newark. Clergymen of most faiths and ethnic backgrounds were represented. The Commission felt this council was necessary in order that the human element in urban planning, adequate income, housing, the improvement of public education and that the role of religion must be the spiritual and moral foundation in the community.

In 1962 our Agency celebrated its 10th anniversary, representing a decade of promoting racial harmony within the City of Newark. We realized we had to broaden our scope in order to encompass the growing demands of the public and it was for this reason our name was changed from "THE MAYOR'S GROUP ON INTERRELATIONS" to

its present name "NEWARK HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION."

Because of the increasing social problems facing the City of Newark, in 1963 we urged massive federal and state aid to help solve these problems. In addition to appealing for federal and state aid to help eliminate some of these ills, the Commission initiated several significant pilot projects.

In May of that year we began planning a curriculum for Puerto Ricans and other Spanish-speaking children.

The Commission co-sponsored with CORE a series of nine lectures on "Negroes in American Civilization — classes averaged in attendance of more than 80.

We sponsored an International Festival of Children Arts — attracting 25,000 people — consisting of art works of young folks from 103 nations.

Research for the booklet "Study of the Puerto Ricans in Newark" started in June of 1962, it was completed by the end of that year. Since there were very few books on the background and history of Puerto Ricans as City residents, it was felt that this booklet would supply this much needed information.

In 1967 we sponsored a program entitled "TRAINING — KEY TO SUCCESS," at that time there was no anti-poverty program available. Junior and Senior students from the Newark High Schools were

involved in this program. Training was given on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and during the week on alternating basis. The students learned the proper ways of dressing, good health habits, resume writing, how to act on an interview, typing and filing. Office procedures were given in our office for three hours after school. A number of students were placed in good positions after completion of the program.

In January of 1967 a "LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM" involving civilians and Police was started by the Commission. The purpose of this program was to acquaint policemen and civilians with police community relations problems that are encountered daily and some recourses for same.

In 1968 the Newark Human Rights Commission was called upon to assist in organizing ASPIRA in Newark. We felt this was encumbent upon us because of the increasing Spanish-speaking personnel, ASIRA became a reality in the City of Newark.

Model Cities Field Staff Supervisors received orientation and training from the Commission as part of the City's in-kind contribution. This orientation included acquainting the community with all of the candidates running for election to the Model Cities Council.

In August of 1968, we developed "Project Get Acquainted" to help acquaint teachers and other school personnel with their local community and to provide them with a better understanding and

acceptance of the environment in which they would be working.

The Public Housing Joint Tenants Association was formed under the auspices of the Commission in October of 1968. The purpose of this association was to provide an organization to meet the needs of public housing tenants.

Unlike other organizations it was independent of the Newark Housing Authority. It was a tenants organization that acted as a clearing house for the purpose of achieving local and common ends.

In 1968 we sponsored jointly with WCBS-TV a free presentation of the Prince Street Players, a musical entitled "Mother Goose A Go-Go."

In 1971, the Commission experiencing the pressure of a growing society, had still a great amount of work to do; there were laws that had to be passed in order to conform with this expanding society. In December of 1971 the "Blockbusting Ordinance" our first piece of legislation was passed and placed under our jurisdiction for implementation.

In May of 1971 we participated in a State Law Enforcement Planning Agency (SLEPA) Program. More than 400 students from three high schools learned court procedures through lectures by teachers and guest speakers. Field trips took the students inside courts, correctional institutions, the Department of Justice in Washington, D. C. and the United Nations.

Realizing further the inequities of equal opportunities, in 1972 we pressed for passage, after a long and hard fight involving all segments of the community, our second piece of legislation, a "Fair Employment Practice Ordinance" was passed to ensure fair and equal employment opportunities for all the citizens of Newark.

In May we sponsored our first "Scholarship Awards Program" whereby the Commission awarded eight scholarships to public high school seniors. Each winner was selected after having successfully written an essay on "What I Believe To Be The Role Of The Newark Human Rights Commission In The 70's." Each winner was awarded a \$200 scholarship from the Commission.

The Newark Human Rights Commission is involved – as has been in the past – with a multitude of civic, social and other outside agencies in helping to maintain a balanced society for all the citizens of Newark.

Some of the agencies that we are involved with are: United Nations – we serve as the official City agency to coordinate the activities of the citizen committee; National Conference of Christians and Jews; Urban League; NAACP; Greater Newark Urban Coalition; New Jersey Division on Civil Rights; BICC; FOCUS and Tenant Organizations.

Of course, as mandated by our Ordinance, "All City Departments and Agencies shall cooperate

with the Commission in all respects." We have worked jointly and continuously with all departments in trying to deliver the best quality of service to the public.

To broaden our capacity and knowledge and enable us to more effectively carry out our daily and sometimes not so routine tasks, the Commission has attended and participated in many out-of-town conferences and workshops such as: The Eleanor Roosevelt Workshop, International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies – of which we are a member and the International Chiefs of Police Workshops.

We have, as has been our practice for 20 years, sponsored or co-sponsored many programs and projects to aid in maintaining a harmonious relationship with the public sector. Such programs as Brotherhood Week, Black History Week, Crispus Attucks Program and Parade, Puerto Rican Day Parade, Newark-Rutgers University College Day, co-sponsored a "Summer Bi-Lingual Arts Festival. The Commission has sponsored numerous workshops and seminars over the past 20 years from the State-wide Human Relations Workshop, Law Enforcement Seminars to Employment Conferences and Neighborhood Conferences informing the grassroot community of their available resources.

The Commission receives and processes complaints from the citizens of Newark. These complaints

are taken on daily basis and range from neighborhood misunderstandings among different ethnic groups to blatant discrimination of the citizens.

The Commission has made progress. It has and always will be our primary concern to promote peace and harmony throughout the City of Newark for all its citizens regardless of race, creed, color or ethnic background. Mayor Kenneth A. Gibson has stated on many occasions that "today there should not be a need for "human rights' agency." The Newark Human Rights Commission is working towards that end and it will indeed one day become a reality when one man's freedom is every man's freedom; one man's equality is every man's equality; one man's opportunity is another man's opportunity and when every man can be guaranteed his "Human Rights."



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

NEWARK HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION



STAFF

Daniel W. Blue, Jr., Executive Director
James F. King, Chief Community Relations Specialist

COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALISTS

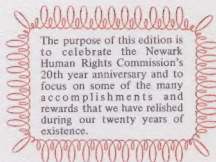
Charlotte Adams	Thomas McNamara
Carl Brinson	Adolfo Nogueras
Carroll Edmondson	Nicholas Parlavecchio
Corrado Gigante	William Reese
Marie Gonzalez	James Rone
Bessie Hicks	Harry Spellman
Hickman Holmes	Joseph Volker
Kenneth Johnson	Eleanor Walker
Milton Lewis	Peter Zaccane

CLERICAL STAFF

JoAnn Allen
Virginia Gray
S. Iris Gonzalez
Rebecca Mittleman

COMMUNITY AIDES

Wanda Addison	Gloria Ellis
Nancy Arrington	Delores Gilliam
Bernice Crawford	Carol Jackson
Phyllis Delain	Gladys Smith
Evelyn Brown	Jacqueline Sams
Eric Moore	



The purpose of this edition is to celebrate the Newark Human Rights Commission's 20th year anniversary and to focus on some of the many accomplishments and rewards that we have relished during our twenty years of existence.

PRESENT COMMISSIONERS

Frank Curry
Leonard Clavis
Dr. Russell Greco
Hope Jackson
Joseph Manghisi
Jean Palumbo
Johnie Peterson
Louis Pitts
Robert Small
Alice Townsend
Israel Velez
James Wade
Courtney Weeks
Daniel J. Warnock

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Mayor

Michael Bontempo
Councilman-at-Large

Michael P. Bottone
Councilman – West Ward

Anthony J. Giuliano
Councilman-at-Large

Earl Harris
Councilman-at-Large

Sharpe James
Councilman – South Ward

Frank G. Megaro
Councilman – North Ward

Louis M. Turco
Council President

Ralph A. Villani
Councilman-at-Large

Dennis A. Westbrooks
Councilman – Central Ward

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KENNETH A. GIBSON, MAYOR